

The Story of Salt Lake Lodge, B. P. O. E., No. 85.



W. P. LYNN.

From the shores of the Atlantic,
From the golden sunset sea,
With their martial banners waving,
Comes the grand B. P. O. E.

Never in the history of Utah has a convention of any fraternal organization excited the widespread enthusiasm and hearty co-operation equaling that of the coming Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, which is to be held in Salt Lake City on August 15th next.

To nine Elks of this city is due the full credit of securing the present reunion of the Grand Lodge for Salt Lake. The local members who were instrumental in securing the convention for Salt Lake consisted of Secretary A. W. Raybould, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler; Joseph Enzensperger, Lester D. Freed, C. D. Pike, L. G. Ransonoff, A. E. Lyon, Otto Stalmann, Thomas Homer and H. Jules Mailloux. These gentlemen, who attended the reunion held last year at Milwaukee, found that they had an almost impossible proposition to meet and overcome, as the lodges of Saratoga Springs, Charleston, S. C., and Baltimore had laid their wires for securing the 1902 convention at one of the cities, the Zionites broke the triple blockade and, in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, routed the Eastern hosts and, in spite of the wealth and pull of their friendly opponents, aided by the silver-tongued Past Exalted Ruler of the Las Vegas Elks, Hon. Charles G. Cavin of Ratoon, N. M., who made the nominating speech for Salt Lake, captured the prong horns in the Cream City and landed Salt Lake winner in the B. P. O. E. Derby for 1902.

Salt Lake lodge No. 85, B. P. O. Elks, was organized in June, 1894, with Don H. Porter as Exalted Ruler and A. W. Raybould Secretary. Mr. Raybould has wielded the Secretary's pen continuously since the first organization of the lodge, and is assured of a lasting position as its Secretary until the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Universe calls him up higher, for to his efforts in the face of great difficulties is due the present rank of the local lodge, if, indeed, not its very existence. At its inception the lodge had but forty members, and during the first three years of its life it was a continuous struggle for existence; the demonetization of silver, hard times and contingent unfortunate influences nearly wiped out the Salt Lake lodge, and for nearly three years Secretary Raybould, with a few earnest adherents, carried the whole burden of the lodge, paying the dues and keeping it in good standing with the Grand Lodge, so that when interest in its existence was renewed the members found, to the astonishment of a majority of its charter members, that their worthy Secretary had brought the lodge through without a demerit mark and retained its proud position as the eighty-fifth lodge in the United States, so that in April, 1899, the Salt Lake lodge found itself able to affiliate with the Grand Lodge with forty-six members, all in "good standing." The increase from that date is phenomenal. In two meetings of the Grand Lodge special mention has been made



LESTER D. FREED.

of Salt Lake lodge No. 85 as being the fifth lodge in the United States in gain of membership. It now has over 600 members.

The Exalted Ruler, at the date of its reorganization, was M. E. Mulvey of the Kenyon hotel, who served one and a half years, retiring before his term expired to give place to Joseph Enzensperger, who held his rank from 1901 to 1902, being succeeded by Lester Freed of the Freed Furniture Company, who served in that office until 1902, when the present Exalted Ruler, H. E. Deardorff, was elected.

All of the past Exalted Rulers of Salt Lake lodge are members of the Grand Lodge, as is also Secretary Raybould, he having become eligible for membership to the Grand Lodge under a now obsolete rule which made any Secretary who had served for three consecutive terms a member of that body.

The first meetings of the lodge in Salt Lake were held in the Gladstone building, whence they moved to the Odd Fellows' hall on Market street, where they continued until the magnificent new B. P. O. E. building on State street was completed. The building with its magnificent furnishings, cost close to \$85,000, and is one of the finest Elks' buildings in the country.

The original charter to the Salt Lake Elks was issued in 1888, but its members did not take interest enough in its success to make any perceptible increase in membership until its reorganization in 1894.

To no one man is due more credit than to Secretary Raybould, who, in the face of the most discouraging circumstances, has held the wheel steady and steered the struggling bark through tempest and fog to its present luxurious harbor of prosperity.

Among the many pleasant episodes which have marked the tortuous windings of the local lodge, none stand forth more brightly than the one furnished by that prince of actors, Frederick Ward, who was playing at the Salt Lake theater on the evening of the reorganization meeting held in 1894. Mr. Ward, also a member of the B. P. O. E., learned from some friend of the meeting to be held in the Gladstone block, and, after the close of his performance, dropped in to see how things were going with the boys. Exalted Ruler Mulvey called upon the eminent actor for a few words, and the response which was made by the eloquent brother was really the most brilliant milestone marking the pathway of the Salt Lake lodge of Elks. Heart-stirring pathos and sparkling wit, grand flights of matchless eloquence and ludicrous reminiscences wove themselves into a wof and web alternating in lights and shades, which will never be forgotten by any of the thirty-odd members who were gathered that night in the dreary old hall, almost discouraged and about ready to give up the fight to maintain the position and



E. D. R. THOMPSON.

standing of their struggling lodge. As many of those present afterward said, new life was infused into the drooping spirits and from that day to this the name of Frederick Ward is one revered by the Salt Lake B. P. O. E.

A little infusion of "ginger" was just what they needed and the prince of actors handed it to them in full measure on that memorable night.

The Salt Lake B. P. O. E. has conducted several delightful and successful outings, the first occurring at Saltair on August 21, 1897, and another July 18, 1900, to which is added the magnificent street fair, which netted the local lodge the comfortable sum of \$8700.

Past Exalted Ruler Enzensperger was among the mourners at the funeral of the original organizer of the order of Elks, Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, which occurred at Leadville, Colo., March 20, 1880, and was a member of the First Brigade band of Leadville, who were engaged by the K. of P., who had charge of the funeral services of the noted Elk, there being no lodge of Elks in Leadville at that date. The body of the deceased was afterwards removed to Mt. Oak cemetery, Boston, and laid to rest by the Elks of that city.

Among the active members of the Salt Lake lodge there is one name which should be recorded near the top of the roll of honor for "good deeds done in the flesh," and there can be no dissenting voice to the universal expression of esteem in which L. B. Freed is held by his fellow Elks. His hand has ever been open in response to every appeal for aid, backed by a clear brain and warm heart, which have won for this estimable young member a hearty welcome in the lodge circle, as well as among his business friends. His personnel in lodge association has done much to advance and foster the good work and well being of the Salt Lake lodge of Elks.

There is probably no one man in the State of Utah who has been instrumental in bringing more people to Utah and more particularly to Salt Lake City than has Jules H. Mailloux, traveling representative of the Salt Lake B. P. O. E. He has visited over two-thirds of the lodges of the United States, and everywhere drops telling words in favor of his adopted city and its advantages. Mr. Mailloux is working under the direction of Thomas Homer, chairman of the Bureau of Information, and has done yeoman service for the State and city, as well as for the local lodge of Salt Lake Elks.

Secretary Raybould is working like a beaver with his corps of helpers preparing for the influx of visiting Elks from all parts of the United States, and is being ably assisted in this labor by W. D. Van Blarcom, Jr., press representative of the Elks.

The charity of the order of Elks is too well known to need comment. The cry of distress from a brother or his loved ones is the signal for a score of hands outstretched in rescue. The Elks split no hairs at sects or creeds, nativity or spiritual belief. They simply do whatever their hands find to do, and do it well.